

DESIGN CONCEPT



A STRIATION OF THE LAND

The geography of the land surrounding the City of Jefferson is marked with bold expressions of our ever-evolving Earth. As the Missouri River has cut through the valleys it has left great outcroppings that show the striations of the aging process. These formations are very telling of the harmony in which the natural systems of our world operate. Each system is dependant upon the next. We have witnessed if damage or deterioration to a system occurs, it can result in a change to the environment.

The selection of the State Surplus Property site is affording us a great opportunity as stewards of the land. The mistakes of the past – the senseless construction and violation of our site – call for a different attitude, a re-addressing and reclamation of a highly damaged site. Our strategy requires a careful analysis of the dialogue between the realm of the man-made and the realm of the natural. This has dictated an approach to the design of this facility with the idea of *efficiency of systems*. This paradigm will be used as a guiding principal in all aspects of this facility promoting a landmark-learning environment that promotes health, wellness and community.

- A Smart, Healthy Building – flexible, resource efficient
- A Landmark Building – civic, timeless, expressive/reflective
- Replicable Systems – educates the future of Sustainable Architecture
- Fosters a Healthy Community – for the future campus and existing resources
- Restores Health and Productivity of Human and Natural Systems

The new Department of Natural Resources has been placed towards the north end of the State Surplus Property site on a bluff above the Missouri River where it will offer beautiful views and a strong connection to nature.

The plan has been designed in a linear floor plate fashion oriented in an East/West direction. The floor plate is played into two wings that pivot slightly towards the South off of true East and West. This design strategy takes advantage of the natural contour shaping of the site by “fitting” the building into the slope of the land while maximizing our responsiveness to the pattern movement of the Sun.

The main entrance brings you across an open pedestrian bridge at the second floor level to encounter a four-story atrium space opening up to grand views beyond to the Missouri River valley. The atrium space acts as the central pivot point to the facility housing all major pedestrian circulation. A second floor entrance promotes the use of the stair system through the ease of access, time, and travel distance. With a short walk down to the first floor, visitors and employees have direct access to nature and future walking trails outside.

Open floor plans are ideal for natural daylighting. With this in mind, the office plans are laid out according to a diagram that places communal and enclosed programs towards the inner core of the building, leaving open perimeter space for day lit work zones and pedestrian circulation.

Formal qualities of the architecture have been directly influenced by the natural resources of the surrounding land. The indigenous rock outcroppings have influenced a layering of the building to the land as *striations* that are reflective to the functioning systems within. Natural daylighting through the skin of the building is responsive to the sun patterns throughout the year. Light shelf and vertical fin designs are focused on criteria that will reflect light deep into the floor plate while shading the building to reduce glare and heat gain. This will help in minimizing the need for electric light in the facility throughout the workday.

The roof form is reflective of the integral systems designed into the function of the building. Systems are expressed rather than hidden so as to educate the public on “how the building works”. Sloping of the roof aids in

the harvesting of rainwater and the use of a Night Sky System that cools the water used in the conditioning of the building.

The Department of Natural Resources will be setting new standards for the workplace and building industry with the completion of this facility. As we have come to understand our impact on the Earth, as humans we are responding to the future with each decision made in the sustainability of our planet. The new Department of Natural Resources facility will act as a beacon of guidance for environmental equality, and promote awareness and stewardship for all who visit.